Government to restrict the use of private cars in the capital in order to cut the emissions of CO2 or impose any congestion tax.

(c) and (d) The Government is committed to improve the quality of public transport in Delhi through extension of Metro, introduction of BRT Corridors, procurement of low-floor buses for DTC, modernization of Private Stage Carriage Services, installation of GPS based automatic tracking and monitoring system, and introduction of automatic fare collection system to facilitate seamless travel across modes. The objective is to improve and encourage greater use of public transport system in Delhi to reduce road congestion, pollution and reduction in emission of CO2.

Number of tigers in wildlife parks/reserves

3211. SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of tigers in the country has dwindled due to poaching;

(b) if so, the total number of tigers available in different wildlife parks/reserves as on 31 March, 2009; and

(c) what steps Government has taken or proposes to take to preserve the tigers in different regions of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) Poaching is one of the major threats to tiger population. As per the findings of the recent All India tiger estimation in 2008 using the refined methodology, the total country-level population of tiger is 1411 (mid value); the lower and upper limits being 1165 and 1657 respectively, as indicated in Statement-I (*See* below). The new findings are based on spatial occupancy of tigers and sampling such forests using camera traps in a statistical framework, which is not comparable to the earlier total count using pugmarks. The said findings indicate a poor status of tiger population in areas outside tiger reserves and protected areas. The tiger population, by and large, in tiger reserves and protected areas of the 17 tiger States are viable, while requiring ongoing conservation efforts.

(c) The milestone initiatives taken by the Government of India for tiger conservation are at Statement-II.

Statement-I

Forest occupancy and population estimates of tiger as per the refined methodology

State	Tiger km2	Tiger Number		
		No.	Lower limit	Upper limit
1	2	3	4	5
Shivalik-Gangetic Plain Landscape Complex				
Uttarakhand	1901	178	161	195

1	2	3	4	5
Uttar Pradesh	2766	109	91	127
Bihar	510	10	7	13
Shivalik-Gangetic	5177	297	259	335
Central Indian Landscape Complex and Eastern Ghats Landscape Complex				
Andhra Pradesh	14126	95	84	107
Chhattisgarh	3609	26	23	28
Madhya Pradesh	15614	300	236	364
Maharashtra	4273	103	76	131
Orissa	9144	45	37	53
Rajasthan	356	32	30	35
Jharkhand**	1488		Not Assessed	
Central Indian	48610	601	486	718
Western Ghats Landscape Complex				
Karnataka	18715	290	241	339
Kerala	6168	46	39	53
Tamil Nadu	9211	76	56	95
Western Ghats	34094	412	336	487
North East Hills and Brahmaputra Flood Plains				
Assam*	1164	70	60	80
Arunachal Pradesh*	1685	14	12	18
Mizoram*	785	6	4	8
Northern West Bengal*	596	10	8	12
North East Hills, and Brahmaputra	4230	100	84	118
Sunderbans	1586		Not Assessed	
TOTAL TIGER POPULATION:		1411	1165	1657

*Population estimates are based on possible density of tiger occupied landscape in the area, not assessed by double sampling.

**Data was not amenable to population estimation of tiger. However, available information about the landscape indicates low densities of tiger in the area ranging from 0.5 to 1.5 per 100 km2.

Statement-II

Milestone initiatives taken by the Government of India for protection/ conservation of tigers and other wild animals

Legal steps

1. Amendment of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 for providing enabling provisions for constitution of the National Tiger Conservation Authority and the Tiger and Other Endangered Species Crime Control Bureau.

2. Enhancement of punishment in cases of offence relating to a tiger reserve or its core area.

Administrative steps

3. Strengthening of antipoaching activities including special strategy for monsoon patrolling, by providing funding support to Tiger Reserve States, as proposed by them, for deployment of antipoaching squads involving ex-army personnel/ home guards, apart from workforce comprising of local people, in addition to strengthening of communication/wireless facilities.

4. Constitution of the National Tiger Conservation Authority with effect from 4.09.2006, for strengthening tiger conservation by, *Inter alia*, ensuring normative standards in tiger reserve management, preparation of reserve specific tiger conservation Plan, laying down annual audit report before Parliament, constituting State level Steering Committees under the Chairmanship of Chief Ministers and establishment of Tiger Conservation Foundation.

5. Constitution of a multidiciplinary Tiger and Other Endangered Species Crime Control Bureau (Wildlife Crime Control Bureau) with effect from 6.6.2007 to effectively control illegal trade in wildlife.

6. Declaration of eight new Tiger Reserves and in-principle approval accorded for creation of four new Reserves, namely Sahyadri in Maharashtra, Pilibhit in Uttar Pradesh, Ratapani in M.P. and Sunabeda in Orissa.

7. The revised Project Tiger guidelines have been issued to States for strengthening tiger conservation, which apart from ongoing activities, *Inter alia*, include funding support to States for enhanced village relocation/rehabilitation package for people living in core or critical tiger habitats (from Rs. 1 lakh/family to Rs. 10 lakhs/family), rehabilitation/resettlement of communities involved in traditional hunting, mainstreaming livelihood and wildlife concerns in forests outside tiger reserves and fostering corridor conservation through restorative strategy to arrest habitat fragmentation.

8. A scientific methodology for estimating tiger (including co-predators, prey animals and assessment of habital status) has been evolved and mainstreamed. The

findings of this estimation/assessment are bench marks for future tiger conservation strategy.

9. An area of 29284.762 sq. km. has been notified by 15 Tiger States (out of 17) as crore or critical tiger habitat under section 38V of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, as amended in 2006 (Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Mizoram, Orissa, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttarakhand, and West Bengal). Two tiger States (Bihar and Uttar Pradesh) have taken a decision for notifying the core or critical tiger habitats (2765.04 sq.km.). The State of Madhya Pradesh has not identified/notified the core/critical tiger habitat in its newly constituted tiger reserve (Sanjay National Park and Sanjay Dubri Wildlife Sanctuary).

10. Memorandum of Understanding developed for better/concerted implementation of conservation inputs through tiger reserve States.

Financial steps

11. Financial and technical help is provided to the States under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes, *viz.*, Project Tiger and Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats for enhancing the capacity and infrastructure of the States for providing effective protection to wild animals.

International Cooperation

12. India has a Memorandum of Understanding with Nepal on controlling trans-boundary illegal trade in wildlife and conservation, apart from a protocol on tiger conservation with China.

13. A Global Tiger Forum of Tiger Range Countries has been created for addressing international issues related to tiger conservation.

14. During the 14th meeting of the Conference of Parties to CITES, which was held from 3rd to 15th June, 2007 at The Hague, India introduced a resolution along with China, Nepal and the Russian Federation, with directions to Parties with operations breeding tigers on a commercial scale, for restricting such captive populations to a level supportive only to conserving wild tigers. The resolution was adopted as a decision with minor amendments. Further, India made an intervention appealing to China to phase out tiger farming, and eliminate stockpiles of Asian big cats body parts and derivatives. The importance of continuing the ban on trade of body parts of tigers was emphasized.

Reintroduction of Tigers

15. As a part of active management to rebuild Sariska and Panna Tiger Reserves where tigers have become locally extinct, reintroduction of tigers/tigresses have been done.

Creation of Special Tiger Protection Force (STPF)

16. The policy initiatives announced by the finance Minister in his Budget Speech of 29.2.2008, *Inter alia*, contains action points relating to tiger protection. Based on the one time grant of Rs. 50.00 crore provided to the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) for raising, arming and deploying a Special Tiger Protection Force, the proposal for the said force has been approved by the competent authority for 13 tiger reserves. Rs. 93 lakhs each has been released to Corbett, Ranthambhore and Dudhwa Tiger Reserve for creation of STPF during 2008-09. Central Assistance will be provided to States for creation of STPF in remaining 10 Tiger Reserves in 2009-10.

Restoration of tiger reserves

3212. SHRI O.T. LEPCHA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has drawn out a comprehensive scheme for restoration of some 37 tiger reserves across the country by relocating a lakh or more families inhabiting and encroaching the reserves;

(b) if so, the details of the scheme and its cost; and

(c) the steps taken and being taken to implement the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The ongoing Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Project Tiger has been revised to include, *Inter alia*, an enhanced village relocation package (from Rs. 1.00 lakh/per family to Rs. 10.00 lakhs/per family), for relocation of villages from the core/critical tiger habitat of Tiger Reserve, identified under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 towards providing inviolate space to tiger population. During the current plan period, the outlay of the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Project Tiger is Rs. 650 crores. The central assistance for village relocation from the core/critical tiger habitat is being provided to the States on the basis of their proposals. The funding support provided for village relocation during the current plan period is at Statement.

Statement

Details of fund released for relocation of villages/settlement of rights under Project Tiger Scheme during the years 2006-07, 2007-08 *and* 2008-09

(Rs. in lakhs)

S.No.	State	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Madhya Pradesh	30.00	1930.8969	1324.49
2.	Rajasthan	—	100.00	2142.00